





**Councillor Paul Ainslie**  
Toronto City Council  
Scarborough East - Ward 43

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April 25, 2014

Ulli Watkiss, City Clerk  
12th Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss,

Re: Administrative inquiry regarding City of Toronto's Homelessness Task Force Initiative

I am submitting this administrative inquiry under Municipal Code S27-61 to seek information regarding the status of the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness.

In 2011, Mayor Rob Ford summoned the media to a city hall press conference in the members' Lounge of the Toronto City Council Chamber. There, in a prepared speech, he announced that he was appointing Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti to lead a group of task forces including a Task Force on Homelessness.

The following statement on the parameters of the Task Force on Homelessness was issued by Councillor Mammoliti's office: "Because the parameters are still pretty vague for Ice Rink and Homeless Task Forces are still in the process of being thought out, we can focus on the child care one. Homelessness task force will look at getting people off of the street and ensuring their safety."

To date nothing has taken place with regards to a Task Force on Homelessness.

The increasing unaffordability of housing in the City of Toronto is a huge problem, and threatens the quality of life of virtually every Torontonians. This is a key issue which seems to be flying below the radar screen of our municipal government, and it will shape the kind of city Toronto becomes over the next few decades.

The latest statistics released last Fall shows the number of homeless people in Toronto to be around 5,253. The number of people sleeping on the streets since 2009 has increased by 24 percent.

I am requesting we know why a taskforce on Homelessness has not been created to look at answers to at a minimum the following three areas of concern:

1. There is homelessness – finding a way to serve those who sleep on the streets or in shelters.
2. There is housing for people living in poverty, who are unlikely to ever afford market rates for a place to live.
3. And then there is the price of housing for average-income people, who are increasingly being squeezed to the fringes of the city and beyond.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie  
City of Toronto  
Scarborough East Ward 43